

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 14, 2006, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

By this amendment, Claims 3, 4, 14, 16, and 18 have been canceled. Claim 20 has been amended. Thus, Claims 1-2, 5-13, 15, 17, and 19-20 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the Examiner's indication that Claims 1, 2, 5-13, 15, 17, 19, and 20 are allowable.

Objections to the Claims

Claim 20 is objected to as containing informalities. Applicants have amended Claim 20 responsive to this objection. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of the objection to Claim 20.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lakin (U.S. Patent No. 5,942,958). Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,556,103) in view of Tikka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,741,145). Claims 14, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lakin in view of Bradley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,262,637).

By this amendment, Applicants have canceled Claims 3, 4, 14, 16, and 18, rendering these rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicants submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

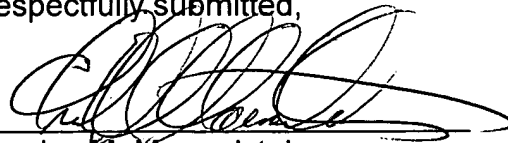
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not being timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 025720-00017.

Respectfully submitted,



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